

6. A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of: The method according to **claim 1**

identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said observation window including a target pixel; and  
compacting vertical features within said observation window, wherein said step of compacting vertical features comprises:  
determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse vertical edge;  
shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel; and  
updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.

8. A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of:  
identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said observation window including a target pixel;  
compacting horizontal features within said observation window;  
compacting vertical features within said observation window; and  
compacting corner features within said observation window The method according to **claim 1**, wherein:  
said step of compacting horizontal features modifies said target pixel and a first pixel adjacent said target pixel by shifting gray between said target pixel and said first pixel when said target pixel is within a diffuse horizontal edge;  
said step of compacting vertical features modifies said target pixel and a second pixel adjacent said target pixel by shifting gray between said target pixel and said second pixel when said target pixel is within a diffuse vertical edge; and  
said step of compacting corner features modifies a pixel within said compaction window when said target pixel is within a diffuse corner.

10. A method for compacting a diffuse gray edge, comprising the steps of ~~the method according to claim 1, wherein said step of compacting corner features comprises:~~

identifying an observation window within continuous tone image data, said

observation window including a target pixel;

determining if said target pixel is within a diffuse corner;

shifting gray from a first pixel (A) that is not adjacent to a saturated pixel to

a second pixel (B) that is adjacent to a saturated pixel; and

updating a pixel value in response to said shifting step.